

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDE-00
/090 W

-----191313Z 095944 /40

P R 191101Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO MBFR DEL VIENNA PRIORITY 050

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1168

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDPAEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0344

VIENNA HOLD FOR ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR BARNES

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, RO

SUBJ: MBFR: MORE ON POSSIBLE ROMANIAN INITIATIVE

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 0317; (B) USNATO 0269

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1. LONG AFTER-DINNER SESSION WITH NEAGU (MFA DIRECTOR
FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS) LAST NIGHT PRODUCED
LITTLE AMPLIFICATION OF HIS COMMENTS TO BRITISH AMBASSADOR
ON ALLEGED NEW ROMANIAN MBFR PROPOSAL. HE FLATLY
DENIED THAT ANY DEFINITE PLAN EXISTED. SAID VARIETY
OF IDEAS WERE BEING DISCUSSED WITHIN MFA AND THAT THEIR
PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS WERE BEING STAFFED OUT BY A

SMALL CELL OF OFFICERS AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHO WERE "SPECIALISTS" IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS. WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO EXTRACT BETTER SENSE OF WHO THEY WERE, THEIR BACKGROUND, ETC, HE DUCKED ISSUE BY OBSERVING THEY WERE A GROUP OF "COMPETENT BUT NOT VERY SOPHISTICATED SOLDIERS."

2. NEAGU'S MAIN PITCH WAS THAT FROM ROMANIAN VIEW-POINT THERE IS VERY LITTLE LEFT TO STUDY IN VIENNA. ALL THAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS A POLITICAL DECISION TO BREAK DEADLOCK. HE AIRLY DISMISSED COROIANU'S ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN POSTURING ON ROMANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SYMMETRICAL VERSUS ASYMMETRICAL APPROACH TO FORCE REDUCTIONS (REFTEL A). OBSERVING THIS QUESTION IS PRIME EXAMPLE OF "THEOLOGISTS" APPROACH TO PROBLEM HE SAID THAT CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO SUCH "PRIEST-LIKE CONCEPTS" INHERENTLY GUARANTEED THAT NO PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE. BOTH SIDES NEEDED TO TACKLE ISSUES IN FAR MORE PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC FASHION. HE ALSO TERMED AS NONSENSE THE NOTION THAT FIRST ROUND OF REDUCTIONS NEEDED TO INCLUDE ALL PARTIES TO AGREEMENT. HE SAID ROMANIANS BELIEVED U.S. AND SOVIETS SHOULD MAKE FIRST CUTS, TO BE FOLLOWED SIX MONTHS LATER BY COMMENSURATE REDUCTIONS BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ALLIES.

3. NEAGU CONFIRMED THAT WHEN GOR FINALLY MAKES UP ITS MIND ON FORM OF PROPOSAL IT WILL "INFORM AND NOT RPT NOT COORDINATE" PROPOSAL WITH SOVIETS. CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. WOULD BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

4. COMMENT: THERE NO DOUBT THAT ROMANIANS ARE MOVING TOWARD MAKING A NEW PROPOSAL AT VIENNA, BUT I JUDGE THEY ARE MUCH FARTHER AWAY FROM A SPECIFIC FORMULATION THAN AMBASSADOR PETERSEN MAY HAVE THOUGHT. NEAGU, WHO IS A VERY BRIGHT, SOPHISTICATED OPERATOR, TALKED IN SUCH CLICHED AND OVER SIMPLIFIED TERMS LAST NIGHT THAT I AM LEFT WONDERING IF HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF FITTING SOME HALF-BAKED CEAUSESCU FORMULA INTO AN INITIATIVE THAT WON'T BE LAUGHED OFF THE COURT AT VIENNA.

5. USNATO 0269 (NOTAL) JUST RECIEVED. SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED EVERYTHING WE HAVE REPORTED TO DATE ON BOTH SUBJECTS IS UP FOR GRABS. VIETS

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